

## HEMMED IN BY FLAMES 175 WOMEN AND GIRLS MEET HORRIBLE DEATH

### Fire on Top Floors of New York Building Occupied as Factory Also Results in Injury to Hundred Others.

### EMPLOYEES JUMP FROM WINDOWS TO STREET AND CERTAIN DEATH

### Iron Door, Opening Inwardly, Placed at Head of Ninth Floor Stairway, Believed to Have Added Score to the Number of Dead—Negligence Given as Cause of Calamity.

#### Fearful Chapter in City's History.

"The building was not adequately equipped with fire escapes, and this same scene is likely to be repeated tomorrow or any other day in the big office and loft buildings in this city. The lives of the employes of these big buildings are not properly safeguarded, and if the law does not provide for their protection the law should be changed. This is the most frightful experience in my career as a fireman. It is a fearful chapter in the city's history."—Fire Chief Croker.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, March 25.—A fire that spread like a spark in a powder train trapped 2,000 employes of the Triangle Waist Company on the eighth, ninth and tenth floors of the ten-story loft building at Washington place and Greene street, at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

More than 175 lives were lost. The police figures at midnight were 150 dead and 100 injured. The dead are chiefly women and young girls, some of them pitifully young to take up the burden of wage earners and some of them old women that an unkind fate kept in the battle for daily bread when their years should have won them a peaceful close of life.

The cause of this frightful calamity—official neglect.

Housing during the busy hours of the day thousands of employes this big and high-reaching building was equipped with but one narrow iron fire escape, and that in the rear and leading into an almost blind court.

As though this neglect and absolute disregard for human life were not enough, a criminal trap placed as a warning to the employes of the Triangle company that they were constantly under suspicion of theft added scores to the roll of death.

Employees in a Trap.  
An iron door, opening inwardly, had been placed at the head of the stairway on the ninth floor by the Triangle company. When explosive matter was being handled on the ninth floor, where 1750 women were employed, this door was closed, and no one could leave the room without a superficial search, the women being required to open their coats and cloaks and expose the contents of their pockets to the view of the men who were with them. The entire force had to undergo this scrutiny at the close of the working day.

Today, when the alarm was given, there was a mad rush for the stairway. The iron door shutting off the stairway was closed and sealed by the men who were guarding the women against it. It was not opened until many of the frightened women had hurled themselves from the windows or had fainted from fright, and were left to die in the flames.

When by chance this diabolical trap was sprung, the rush of women down the stairway left dead, dying and cruelly trampled in its wake, and at points the stairway was fairly choked with the dead.

Fire Chief Croker and his men did their best, but were practically helpless against the explosive absence of safeguards over human life. They found the sidewalks littered with the dead when they arrived and women and men, hopelessly cut off from escape and with the fire searing their bodies, flung themselves heading from the windows.

Chief Croker Places Blame.  
Croker was not slow to fix the blame. His face drawn and his jaw firmly set, he looked at the heaps of bodies about where he stood and declared that the lack of outside fire escapes was responsible for the calamity.

"I have predicted and tried to avoid just such a scene as this," he declared. "The building was not adequately equipped with fire escapes, and this scene is likely to be repeated tomorrow or any other day in the big office and loft buildings in this city. The lives of the employes in these big buildings are not properly safeguarded, and if the law does not provide for their protection the law should be changed. This is the most frightful experience in my career as a fireman. It is a fearful chapter in the city's history."—The employes of the Triangle company

## SEÑOR DE LA BARRA BECOMES PREMIER

### Chosen by President Diaz to Be Head of the New Mexican Cabinet.

### BELIEVED ALL FACTIONS WILL APPROVE CHOICE

### Appointment Regarded as a Master Stroke of Policy.

### AMBASSADOR LEAVES TODAY

### Had Preferred to Remain in Wash- ington—Has No Idea Who His Successor Will Be.

Francisco de la Barra, Mexican ambassador to the United States, was yesterday named minister of foreign relations of the Mexican cabinet by President Diaz. Señor de la Barra has telegraphed to Mexico City his acceptance of the portfolio.

Immediately after telegraphing his acceptance to Mexico City, Señor de la Barra went to the White House and informed President Taft. The President expressed pleasure at the ambassador's appointment and congratulated him warmly. As the ambassador had decided to leave here today for Mexico City, the President bade him farewell, giving him a picture of himself, autographed with a salutation of personal regard.

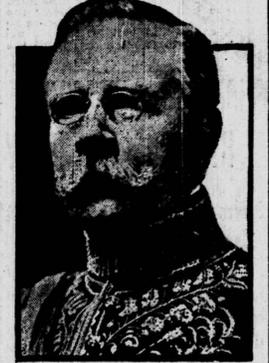
Señor de la Barra also called upon Secretary of State Knox and informed him of the appointment. Mr. Knox congratulated the ambassador and bade him good-bye.

The new minister of foreign relations in making the public announcement of his appointment declared he did not know whether any other members of the new cabinet had been decided upon.

### Appointment Not Unexpected.

The fact that Ambassador de la Barra was a likely candidate for the post of minister of foreign relations had been known by friends in Washington for some time. The ambassador, however, always had expressed a desire that publicity should not be given to such information. His reason was that, although he would feel it to be his duty to accept the post if it were offered to him, he really preferred to remain in Washington, where in the position of ambassador he might continue the work of cementing the friendly relations between Mexico and the United States.

In discussing yesterday night with a reporter the probability of his appointment as minister of foreign relations, the ambassador disclosed the fact that his name had been mentioned prominently by supporters of both the federal government and the revolutionary movement. He said he hoped, however, Pres-



AMBASSADOR DE LA BARRA.

dent Diaz might confer the honor of premiership in his cabinet on some one else, but that if the post were offered to him he would feel it a duty to accept.

### Notified Last Night.

A message reached the ambassador at 7 o'clock last night from Señor Croel, who resigned Friday as minister of foreign relations, in which the latter announced to Señor de la Barra that it was President Diaz's wish that he accept the post of minister of foreign relations to which he had been named.

The ambassador wired his acceptance and left immediately called on President Taft.

"My meeting with President Taft and later with Secretary Croel and Señor de la Barra, was most cordial. They expressed the hope that Mexico would enter upon an era of peace, and said good-bye. I feel deeply the honor that has been bestowed upon me. I will start for Mexico City tomorrow."

"An for the position in the cabinet, I felt it my duty to accept, because I thought conditions in Mexico made it urgent. I feel deeply the honor that has been bestowed upon me. I will start for Mexico City tomorrow."

### Acceptable to All Factions.

Señor de la Barra has not been identified with any particular political party in Mexico and the significance of his appointment is that it is confidently expected to meet with the hearty approval of all factions in that country. He has devoted himself chiefly to the foreign relations of Mexico, having been ambassador to various countries.

When it became known that Señor de la Barra had been named ambassador to Mexico, relations with the United States were without hesitation.

All this had happened in such a small space of time that the first piece of apparatus had not reached the scene, and those who were rolling up, and the screech of the whistles of the approaching engines could be heard. For a moment this held the fire-stricken prisoners in the windows. The firemen first on the scene snatched out their life nets, and many men in the gathering crowd surrounded it.

### Versed in International Law.

He has made a special study of international law and was for many years a professor in jurisprudence and logic at



"AND THE FOWLS OF THE AIR CAME AND DEVOURED IT UP."

## SEVERELY CRITICISES THE ANTI-TRUST LAW

### Judge Grosscup Believes It En- croaches on Powers of the Judiciary.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Judge Peter S. Grosscup of Chicago criticized the Sherman anti-trust law at the Republican Club today during a discussion of the question of the "encroachment of the government on the powers of the judiciary, one upon the other."

Judge Grosscup thought the Sherman law was typical of the laws that encroach upon powers of the judiciary. He thought that laws should conform to existing conditions.

He went on to say that the Calvinists believed that no matter how good a man was the only way he could escape punishment was by the evolution that has taken place and adjust ourselves to it.

### President Schurman's Views.

President J. G. Schurman of Cornell and David Jay Hill, ambassador of the United States to Germany, also spoke. Dr. Schurman said that the great change that the masses of the people have taken hold of the mercy of government and have selected upon the President as its organ.

### JAIL DELIVERY FRUSTRATED.

Saws and Files Found Hidden in Prisoners' Cells.

LOUISVILLE, March 25.—What is declared by the guards at the Louisville city workhouse to have been a plan for a wholesale jail delivery was discovered today when saws, files and clumsily made weapons were found hidden in several places in the cellhouse occupied by white prisoners. The guards allege that one trusty has confessed, saying the plan was to kill the guards tonight and escape.

### MRS. ANNA GREEN DEAD.

Former Washingtonian Passes Away in Buffalo.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE STAR.  
BUFFALO, N. Y., March 25.—Mrs. Anna Green, formerly of Washington, D. C., died here this afternoon of pneumonia at the home of her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Bryne, 49 Morgan street. Mrs. Green was sixty-seven years old and had lived in Buffalo for twenty years. In 1895 she moved to Chicago and later to this city. Three sons survive, all of whom were born in Washington. Burial will be in Buffalo Monday morning.

### Fall From Window Ends in Death.

BERKELEY, Cal., March 25.—Thomas Rickard, former mayor of Berkeley, fell from a second-story window in his residence today and was killed. It is supposed that Rickard, who had suffered from heart trouble, stepped to the window for air and lost his balance.

## TWENTY-SIX ARE LOST WHEN SHIP GOES DOWN

### Strong Gale Off Vancouver Is- land Too Much for Little Wooden Steamer.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 25.—The British Columbia Shipping Company's little wooden steamer Secheit, built for passenger service on an inland lake, turned turtle in a furious gale off Beecher Head, Vancouver Island, late yesterday afternoon, and went down with all on board, twenty-two passengers and a crew of four. Thirteen passengers had landed at Williams Head just before the steamer went out to destruction. Most of the passengers were railroad laborers bound for a Canadian Northern construction camp, but a few were residents of Sooke. Among the known dead are Capt. H. V. Burns, master and part owner; Rev. Mr. James, minister of Sooke, and his wife, and John Newton, land surveyor.

### Indian Seen Disappear.

An Indian on Beecher bay was the only eyewitness of the disaster. Through him news was sent to Victoria, and the tug William Joffe went to the rescue. After cruising about the scene of the wreck for hours the tug returned to Victoria and reported that no trace of the Secheit could be found.

Henry Charles, an Indian of Rocky Point, was gathering wood on Beecher bay at 5:30 p. m. yesterday and saw the Secheit go down. A heavy gale was blowing. When the Secheit was three miles off Beecher Head the gale struck her and she leaned over and swung around as though she intended to run across the strait at Fort Crescent on the American side. The craft had hardly turned broadside to the wind, when she righted, then went over and lay on her side.

### Story of Trussett's Trouble.

The trouble Trussett had about his lease of oil lands owned by Robert Goodman, an Indian and a minor, was told by several witnesses. According to their stories the Indian was "kidnaped" by employes of oil companies controlled by Neeley and kept away from Trussett until Neeley's companies had obtained from Goodman leases to his property which invalidated those held by Trussett. Trussett, who had been paid \$20,000 in this deal, which greatly increased his bitterness toward Neeley.

### NEW RECORD ESTABLISHED.

Wireless Message Sent 2,500 Miles Over Atlantic Ocean.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 25.—What is said to be an entirely new feat in direct wireless communication, the sending of a message over the Atlantic, a distance of 2,500 miles from a ship at sea to England, was reported by the White Star Dominion wireless. According to their story the Indian was "kidnaped" by employes of oil companies controlled by Neeley and kept away from Trussett until Neeley's companies had obtained from Goodman leases to his property which invalidated those held by Trussett. Trussett, who had been paid \$20,000 in this deal, which greatly increased his bitterness toward Neeley.

### ELECT DIRECTORS.

Stockholders of Laurel Building and Loan Association Meet.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE STAR.  
LAUREL, Md., March 25.—At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Laurel Building Association the following were elected directors for the ensuing term: Charles F. Shaffer, George W. Waters, Charles H. Stanley, George W. Hubbs, John E. Jones, Mayor George P. McConney, Peter Slingerland, T. M. Baldwin, Jr., and John A. Flannery. Thomas Coon, a well known farmer, residing near Scaggsville, Howard county, died at his home. The immediate cause of death was heart trouble, following an attack of acute rheumatism. The funeral will take place at Emmanuel Church, Rev. A. B. Sites officiating. Interment will be made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

### IMPRISONED IN ICE.

Fishing Tugs Rescued From Peril By Erie Harbor Boat.

## TRUSKETT TO TESTIFY IN HIS OWN DEFENSE

### Kansas Man on Trial for Mur- der Alleges Worry Over Oil Leases.

INDEPENDENCE, Kan., March 25.—Attorneys for the defense in the A. A. Trussett murder trial today presented a score of witnesses whose testimony was calculated to prove the contention that the defendant's mind has been affected by worry over his oil business.

### To Speak in His Own Behalf.

Mr. Trussett, said his attorneys tonight, will probably be called to the stand in his own behalf some time Monday. Although he is past seventy years of age, he is standing the strain of his trial well. Several former employes of Trussett testified to his queer actions. They believed his mind to have been affected.

James Winkler, a Caney druggist, told of a man named Shaw, who the witness said, while in the employ of the Wichita Line Company, asserted his intention of getting leases on certain oil lands held by Trussett. According to Winkler, Shaw said he would obtain the lands if it cost him "every dollar he could obtain. Neeley was head of this company.

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## ASSURES GOOD WILL Emperor of Japan Sends Mes- sage to President Taft.

### RELATIONS ARE CORDIAL Calls Reports Regarding Impending Trouble False and Wicked.

### NEW YORK APPRAISER RESIGNS

### Business Man Will Probably Be Ap- pointed to Succeed Re- publican Politician.

### President Taft's recent conference with Baron Uchida, the Japanese ambassa- dor, has borne excellent results, most gratifying to the administration. The President yesterday received through the Japanese embassy the following cable message from the Emperor of Japan: "To the President of the United States of America:

"I was greatly pleased to receive your very kind message conveyed to me through my ambassador in Washington. I am well known to you for I was already well convinced that you had given no credence to the false and wicked reports regarding Japan, but it was especially a source of profound satisfaction to me to receive from you the assurance that the relations of amity and good understanding between our two countries were never better or more cordial than at this time. I am more happy to be able entirely to reciprocate that assurance.

"MUTSUHIITO."  
The message from the emperor is the response to the friendly assurances sent him by President Taft and Secretary MacVeach and his successor will soon be selected. Mr. Wanamaker has for years belonged to the regular republican organization in New York, being "one of the boys" and a district leader of prominence. He stood by Roosevelt in the last state election, but did so reluctantly. His sympathy has always been with the organization, with which he has worked since the early days of the late Senator Platt.

It is officially stated that Wanamaker's resignation was voluntary, but it has been known for some time that the administration would prefer a business man as appraiser. Wanamaker had never had a business training suitable to the work of appraiser, and the aim of the administration is to put the customs service, the internal revenue service, the postal service and all branches of the government under the supervision of business men.

George Wanamaker, appraiser of the port of New York, has sent his resignation to President Taft and Secretary MacVeach and his successor will soon be selected. Mr. Wanamaker has for years belonged to the regular republican organization in New York, being "one of the boys" and a district leader of prominence. He stood by Roosevelt in the last state election, but did so reluctantly. His sympathy has always been with the organization, with which he has worked since the early days of the late Senator Platt.

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## REACHING FOR HAT YOUTH IS DROWNED

### Canoe Upsets When Duncan MacRae Tries to Save Friend's Headgear.

### HIS COMPANIONS FAIL IN EFFORTS AT RESCUE

### Accident Occurs in Upper Potomac, Opposite Sycamore Island.

### BODY NOT YET RECOVERED

### Young Man Was Principal of Public School in Alexandria and a Nephew of Maj. Mac- Rae, U. S. A.

While trying to rescue a companion's hat, Duncan MacRae, twenty-one years old, principal of an Alexandria public school, was drowned when his canoe upset in the upper Potomac, opposite Sycamore Island, yesterday afternoon about 6 o'clock.

Three companions, Reamer Welker Argo, Harold Keats and Robert Jones, attempted to rescue MacRae. Keats put out in a canoe, and Argo and Jones swam out to MacRae, who was trying to swim to shore in his clothing.

The swimmers reached MacRae and gave him their support. Keats made nimbly by the icy water, went under, and the current swept him ashore. Getting a foothold he looked back to see Jones and MacRae still struggling to reach the bank, and Keats, paddling with a piece of board, making efforts to reach them but without success.

Then Argo saw Jones and MacRae go under and came up again, still fighting shoreward. In a few moments they both were under and Argo was again alone. Jones came up alone, and in a few moments gained the shore. MacRae was not seen more. His body has not been recovered.

Keats had a ducking a short time before he reached the shore. He had an improved paddle, his canoe had upset. He clung to the keel and was rescued by his companions.

It was his hat, lost when he was immersed, that MacRae went after. In reaching out from the side of the canoe to get the hat, MacRae overbalanced the craft in a swift current that turned it over.

MacRae, Jones, Argo and Keats, all young men and members of the Theta Delta Psi fraternity, were on the street, set out about 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon for a trip on the river.

At the Washington Canoe Club they asked for the rules of the club and a permit to canoe to go out in the absence of the owner, but without permission, and the quartet were refused the privilege.

Keats suggested that they go up to the camp where he had spent last summer and where he knew that he could find a canoe.

The camp was on the Virginia shore, opposite Sycamore Island. Here the young men found three canoes, but no paddles. Keats got a board, and using it as a paddle started out alone in one of the canoes. Unable to guide his boat skillfully with the improvised paddle, he was caught in the swift current and upset. He clung to the canoe until his companions with the improvised paddle were able to pad with boards found on shore.

Starts After Hat.  
A fire was made on the shore for Keats to dry out. Jones and Argo took off their clothes, despite the low temperature, and were planning a dip in the river. Then Keats discovered that his hat was missing, and MacRae took out the canoe to go in search of it, with the fatal result told above.

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Machine Goes Over Embankment. Husband Killed, Wife Injured. NOBLEVILLE, Ind., March 25.—John Gertler, Indianapolis druggist and dean of the National Trade School and Technical Institute of that city, was killed and his wife seriously injured two miles south of here this afternoon, when their automobile slipped on a freshly graveled embankment. The car was planned beneath the wreckage, but his wife managed to extricate herself and walked a quarter of a mile to summon aid.

DESTROYED BY FIRE. Furniture Plant at Thomasville, N. C., Burned; Loss, \$40,000. THOMASVILLE, N. C., March